

Senators Stand 2 to 1 For Ending Secrecy On Relief Rolls

(Continued From First Page.)

of the high caliber of the present membership of the welfare board as an assurance of proper administration of relief.

Senator Smith wanted to know, however, how any one could give any assurance as to future welfare administrations.

"Who's going to be able to judge the administration unless some one on the outside has access to the records," the North Carolinian demanded.

One of the witnesses, Paul Schiff, chairman of the District Chapter of the American Association of Social Workers, started at one point to quote Senator Pastore's remark about one life meaning more than \$1 million.

"That's the trouble with you social workers," Senator Smith interjected, "we've got to look at this practically. Social workers, as a group, are less practical about these things than the man on the outside. Dealing with practical everyday affairs, you sometimes have to take a practical approach."

At this, Senator Pastore laughed and said he'd always thought it true that by reputation social workers are too hard-boiled as it is.

Would Keep Public Faith. But the North Carolinian stuck to his position that nothing involving public funds should be kept secret.

"We've got to keep the public faith in the administration of relief, and one way to keep it is to have publicity."

The text of the anti-secrecy amendment proposed by the Commissioners was read into the record at the request of both Senators Smith and Butler. The measure would require public disclosure of relief rolls but would set up stringent safeguards against indiscriminate use by the public, particularly for commercial or political purposes.

Senator Pastore thought the provisions inadequate.

"Under this amendment it's possible to throw in the kitchen sink," he said.

Senator Smith said he was convinced the proposal would protect the cases "that should be protected." He added that he does not believe the limited information which would be made available to the extent feared by the Rhode Island Senator.

"I don't think the newspapers and radio would want to take the time," he declared.

On the subject of the names of relief recipients becoming known through public inspection of the rolls, Senator Butler commented that "it's no stain to be poor."

Cites American Attitude. He said he had to sell newspapers once. He recalled families with unpaid bills at the corner grocery store, "and my family may have been one of them at one time or another."

But no one held that against them, the Senator continued. "If our American way of life is to rise above being poor. The American people are that way."

On one point, at least, the three lawmakers agreed, after reading through and discussing the entire proposed public assistance bill, that apparently the only controversial issue is the present secrecy clause.

All the witnesses went along with that conclusion, too. These organizations were among those represented at the hearing, which lasted four hours:

Washington Central Labor Union (AFL), District League of Women Voters, Americans for Democratic Action, District Industrial Union Council (CIO), Washington Section of National Council of Jewish Women, Federation of Citizens' Associations, District Federation of Women's Clubs, American Legion, Board of Public Welfare, Washington Taxpayers Association, Washington Federation of Churches, District Young Democrats Club and the Townsend Plan, Inc. A number of private citizens testified as well.

Young Not Present. Commissioner Young did not appear before the subcommittee. He was confined to his home with a cold, according to his office.

Mr. Young tendered no written statement of his views, but Gen. Robinson told the legislators his absent colleague generally concurred in the views expressed in the general statement.

The text of Gen. Robinson's statement follows:

Mr. Chairman, the Commissioners are appreciative of the invitation extended to them to appear before this committee to express their views relative to S. 2502, which provides for public assistance to needy persons in the District of Columbia.

This legislation was transmitted to the Bureau of the Budget by the Board of Commissioners, prior to the passage of the Jenner amendment. Any legislation providing for public access to relief



THEIR VIEWS DIFFER—Senator Butler, Republican, of Maryland (left) listens as Commissioner F. Joseph Donohue testifies during the Senate District Subcommittee hearing on the relief bill. Mr. Donohue opposed opening relief rolls to public inspection and Senator Butler indicated he favors making the rolls public.

rolls at that time would have had the effect of denying to the District of Columbia Federal aid for such assistance. While at that time I was opposed to the secrecy provisions of the bill, I felt that it was not proper to saddle the taxpayers of the District with the additional burden of expense should the Federal Government withdraw its aid.

Subsequent to the passage of the Jenner amendment and to a hearing held before the Board of Commissioners in January, 1952, the board reconsidered the secrecy provisions of the proposed legislation; and by majority vote approved a draft of an amendment to S. 2502, providing for public access to relief rolls. A draft of this amendment was submitted to the Bureau of the Budget within the last few days, and under date of February 20, the bureau advised that the proposed amendment was not in accord with the program of the President.

No Formal Transmission. In view of this the Board of Commissioners will not formally transmit its recommendation to the amendment. However, I believe that a draft of this amendment had been made available to your committee prior to receipt of this information. The amendment was intended to provide

wording which in general would make mandatory public access to information relative to relief rolls to the extent permitted by the Jenner amendment.

Specifically, it would provide that public access could be had to information as to the names and addresses of recipients of relief, the amounts paid, the dates of payment and the number of persons on whose behalf such payments were made, under regulations to be formulated by the Board of Public Welfare and approved by the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia. The amendment further carried specific provisions prohibiting the use of such information for political or commercial purposes, and provided penalties for violations.

Says Safeguards Adequate. It is to be noted that the amendment would have provided for adequate safeguards to insure proper use of the information. Representatives of the public, including members of the press, would have access to the information; while at the same time, under the safeguards provided, the use of that information would not in any way jeopardize the proper administration of the relief program.

I personally am opposed to the complete concealment of the relief rolls on broad basic principles of public policy. I feel that the public has an inherent right to make proper inquiry into the expenditure of public funds and the administration of its Government and all agencies thereof. I believe that there is deep public concern, not only as to the expenditure of funds for the large public welfare program, but with the policies governing welfare activities. The history of public relief for the past several hundred years in England and Scotland, and over a shorter period of time in the United States has been one of wide variation in



GEN. ROBINSON. Calls for open relief rolls. —Star Staff Photos.

policy, in manner of administration, in amounts paid to individuals, and in the relative amount of the burden on the taxpayer at large.

The public should be given real opportunity to express its views relative to such policies and changes in policies, but cannot do so without basic information to which it is justly entitled. I further feel that public confidence in the administration of welfare programs is essential to their success. Full public confidence cannot be gained when activities are shrouded in a veil of secrecy.

For these reasons I favor public access to the relief rolls of the District of Columbia, to the extent permitted by the Social Security Act as amended and as modified by Section 618 of the Revenue Act of 1951.

Bar Opposes Broadcasting Of Congressional Hearings

By the Associated Press

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—Leaders of the American Bar Association are opposed to the televising or broadcasting of hearings by congressional investigating committees and of all judicial proceedings.

The association's Board of Governors yesterday approved a report by a committee which opposed TV or radio coverage of such proceedings. The board recommended that the ABA's legislative body, the House of Delegates, adopt the report at its annual midwinter meeting in Chicago Monday and Tuesday.

John W. Davis of New York headed the committee which submitted the report. It was inspired by debate over the televised proceedings last year of the Senate Crime Investigating Committee headed by Senator Kefauver, Democrat, of Tennessee.

The committee did not oppose the televising or broadcasting of regular sessions of Congress. But it expressed concern about possible infringement of individual rights of privacy in such coverage of investigating hearings and judicial proceedings.

Illinois Officials Convinced Relief Publicity Is Harmless

By Herman F. Schaden

Star Staff Correspondent

CHICAGO, Feb. 22.—All the shouting about how Illinois would suffer by the new antisecrecy law has subsided to a whisper.

Even welfare administrators who were opposed, or lukewarm to the idea of exposing relief rolls to the public, are convinced no ill-effects have resulted therefrom.

It has been three and a half months since Illinois lifted the iron curtain from once secret lists of State and Federal-aided people. To date, no newspaper has printed a single name of a relief client; not one relief recipient has been exploited.

In confirming these facts today, top administrators of the Illinois Public Aid Commission went further to venture that, under existing conditions, abuses will be almost negligible. Here's why: Like the Legislature of Indiana, one of two other States that has opened relief rolls, the Illinois General Assembly wrote in a stiff penalty for any one using the list of names "for commercial or political purposes."

Broad Powers Extended. But going a step further than the Indiana Legislature, the Illinois lawmakers extended broad interpretive powers to the Public Aid Commission:

"It shall be unlawful to use or publish any names or list of names of recipients secured from records maintained in the offices of the county departments of welfare, except in conformity with regulations adopted by the Illinois Public Aid Commission."

"The violation of this provision is a misdemeanor, punishable upon conviction by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment of not more than six months, or both."

As sole policy-making body for Illinois agencies administering State and Federal funds, the IPAC dictates policy for the 102 county welfare departments.

IPAC wasted no time last November setting up three rules for the county departments to follow.

Display Required. First, they were to display relief rolls, with names of all recipients and amounts received, revising them monthly.

Rule 2: "The publication or use for political or commercial purposes of any names or list of names of recipients of old-age pension, blind assistance, disability assistance and aid to dependent children secured from records maintained by the offices of the county departments of welfare is prohibited."

Rule 3 applies to a standardized form all persons wishing to inspect the rolls must sign. The forms quote that part of the code citing the penalty for misusing the rolls and declared that the undersigned will not use the information obtained.

Analyzing Rule 2, as now constructed, IPAC authorities say newspapers have the right to print entire lists of names if they please. But they don't expect them to, and none has.

It would be all right for the names to be published, they say, but if they then were used by unethical businessmen or politicians for illegal purposes, there might be a quick revision of the rule.

Under the powers granted by the State Legislature, the IPAC plainly has the right to regulate use of the rolls.

Among those defending rights of newspapers to publish lists was Henry F. Tenney, an attorney serving as unpaid chairman of

the Illinois Public Aid Commission. So did Simon Sickgold, an IPAC attorney in the Fraud and Investigations Division. But both doubted whether any newspaper would find such a presentation newsworthy.

Mr. Sickgold originated the idea of having all persons examining the rolls sign the statement that they were not using them for illegal purposes.

Double Protection Seen. A similar practice in Indiana was dropped by most counties, but there the State welfare department does not have authority to enforce it.

Mr. Sickgold defended the sign-before-you-look regulation as protection for both the county employer supervising the rolls and for the citizen who reads the statement.

He said it was mandatory to sign the paper before access could be gained to the rolls.

Cook County officials knew of only two examples where the inquiring person decided to sign the paper and did not see the rolls.

One was a political precinct captain who, after reading the statement, decided he could not legitimately use the rolls for the intended purpose.

The other was a man from a collection agency trying to locate a delinquent creditor who had moved. He, too, backed off when he read the rules.

Oklahoma Cattle Heiress Ruled Mentally Sound

By the Associated Press

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 22.—A jury last night found Mrs. Mattie Anderson Knight, 46, Oklahoma cattle heiress, mentally competent and capable of managing her \$1 million estate.

The verdict was reached after three hours of deliberation. The suit was filed by Mrs. Knight's 25-year-old daughter, Mrs. Lou Ann Zellers of Lake Success, N. Y. She contended her mother had become incapable of managing her own affairs because of addiction to alcohol and narcotics.

Mrs. Knight denied excessive drinking and testified she used narcotics only under her doctor's orders.

Man Held in Shooting Of Blind Steppather

Richard De Gostiano, 32, of the 900 block of O Street N.W., was charged with assault with a deadly weapon today in the shooting of his blind stepfather Wednesday.

De Gostiano, who allegedly fled after the shooting at 1401 Twelfth street N.W., was arrested in the home of a relative. He was accused of shooting Edward K. Brown, 62, colored, as they sat drinking in Mr. Brown's apartment. The latter was reported in critical condition at Freedman's Hospital today.



Josef Yakerson calls a friend to tell of his good fortune. —Star Staff Photo.

Tailor in Sickbed Gives Reply That Hits Radio Show Jackpot

A 61-year-old tailor, who won a big jackpot on television last night, is going to spend a lot of the money he won on the chances of curing himself of gangrene caused by diabetes.

Josef Yakerson, who now is staying with his daughter and son-in-law at 1202 Hamilton street N.W., last night guessed the mystery song on "Stop the Music," televised over the American Broadcasting Co. and WMAL-TV, The Star's television station. His guess was the song "Dixie Dan."

For his effort, given over a bedside telephone, Mr. Yakerson is slated to receive, according to ABC officials, \$7,000 in cash, a stove, a two-week vacation in Nassau and Bermuda and a 1952 Pontiac sedan.

Will Pay Doctors. "It came just in time," Mr. Yakerson said of the money. "It will help pay the doctor's bills."

A native of Russia, Mr. Yakerson left there in 1911 and went to Copenhagen, Denmark. From there he came to the United States in 1913. He has been in Washington since 1936. He lives at 1309 Staples street N.E., but for the last three months has been staying with his daughter and son-in-law, cop the jackpot.

THE EVENING STAR A-3
Washington, D. C.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1952

Army Can Use Doctors As Dishwashers if It Wishes, Lawyer Says

By the Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 22.—An Army legal officer says the military could draft all doctors under 51 and use them in non-medical jobs.

Maj. Robert Hillis stated the military's position yesterday in opposing Dr. Stanley J. Orloff's contention that the Army acted illegally in drafting him as a private. Dr. Orloff, 27, a former senior psychiatrist for the New York Department of Mental Health, is a medical technician at Fort Lawton, Wash. He lost an appeal to a Seattle civil court for release from the Army. His appeal is being heard here.

Position Explained. Judge William Orr asked Maj. Hillis, "Is it your contention that you could draft all the doctors in the United States under 51 years of age, drain them off the civilian population and use them as something else?"

"Yes sir," the major replied. Then Judge Louis E. Goodman, another member of the three-man ninth United States Court of Appeals asked if the Army has the right to take "for example, a famous surgeon, in order to wash dishes?"

Maj. Hillis: "When he is inducted, he is inducted for service—and that means whatever service the Army chooses to use him for."

Release Is Sought. Siegfried Hesse of Seattle, attorney for Dr. Orloff, said his client was drafted solely as a doctor but cannot act as one because the Army has not acted on his application for a commission. He asked that Dr. Orloff be released until he is commissioned.

Mr. Hesse said Dr. Orloff was denied a commission because he refused to answer a loyalty questionnaire although he signed a loyalty oath.

Mr. Hesse argued that, inasmuch as Dr. Orloff was not allowed to serve as a doctor, his induction was illegal.

The judges took the case under advisement.

CORRECTION

We regret the typographical error in the Wm. E. Miller ad in the Thursday Star advertising 6 Bow-Front Chinas, 38" wide, 74" high at \$4.75.

THE PRICE WAS CORRECT IN LATE EDITIONS

The correct prices should read, \$157.75 regular, now \$139.50.

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<p>\$45 Gabardine Topcoats</p> <p>33.75</p> <p>100% all-wool bal raglan, tan and grey.</p>	<p>\$35 to \$60</p> <p>Sport Coats</p> <p>27.75</p> <p>Tweeds and shetlands. Grey, blue, tan. Two and three-button. Reg., shorts, longs.</p>	<p>REG. \$2.95—100% DUPONT</p> <p>Nylon Underwear</p> <p>Boxer shorts and spun nylon undershirts.</p> <p>1.95</p>	<p>Reg. \$21.00</p> <p>Stetson Shoes</p> <p>15⁹⁵</p> <p>Calfskins, Wingtips, Straight Tips. Not all sizes in every style. Exclusively ours in Washington.</p>	<p>Reg. \$13.95</p> <p>Moccasin Loafers</p> <p>9⁹⁵</p> <p>Genuine 100% hand-sewn moccasins, sizes 6 to 12, A to E.</p>

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CHANGE PURSE, black in taxi, containing bills, change keys. Thru. to 4505 Ave. W. ave. terminal. Reward. Even. OIR. 8927.
COCKER SPANIEL, red and white, male, answers to "Fella"; reward. Call SL. 100 or SL. 6818. —23
DALMATIAN PUPPY, black ear and eye. Old Bladenburg-Silver Springs area. Reward. Even. OIR. 3252.
DOG, English bull, brindle color, answers to name "Timmy"; vic. Walter Reed Hospital and Gt. Ave. H. W. WARDEN. TA. 3130. —24
DOG, medium small, black long haired, bushy tailed. White blaze chest, white around mouth and white on rear toes. Right ear tip cut off, answers to name "Sooky"; Va. male license. 17334. Reward. CH. 7284.
DOG, small, black, male, long-haired, brown underneath, test and muzzle. Orange collar. SL. 4934.
FUR SCARF—Four skins: F at n.w. Reward. LU. 1-0088.
KEYS, in salt leather slipper case. GE. 8692.
RING, man's heavy silver, with tiger eye set. Dec. 24; reward. NA. 2-71. E. 130
SIAMESE CAT, children's pet, vic. Hillwood Ave. Cherry st. Falls Church. Reward. JE. 3-3361.
SILVER DIAMOND RING, old-fashioned. Sun. vic. Conn. and Calvert, or Zoo. Reward. —22
SIMALA CHILDREN would appreciate return of their Siamese cat, which disappeared from 1551 23rd st. n.w. Reward. DE. 0567. —24

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